

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference P59288F-WO | FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below. | |
| International application No. PCT/GB2004/004068 | International filing date (day/month/year) 24/09/2004 | (Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 24/09/2003 |
| Applicant HAMM, Brian L. | | |

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 6 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.



The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).



- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2.



Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).

3.



Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

- a. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1A-1C



as suggested by the applicant.



as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.



- b. none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

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Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

A materials handling system comprising, a mobile work station and a self propelled tug, said mobile workstation having a roller conveyor (9) supported on a workstation chassis, said chassis having castors (16) engageable with a floor and a tow bar (14) extending from at least one of a side (6) or end (7) of said chassis, said tug having a body (1) mounted on at least three ground engageable wheels (2a, 2b, 2c) and a tow bar hitch comprising a pair of laterally spaced hooks (5) adapted to couple with said extended tow bar such that the rotary axis of at least one of the tug wheels is at least as close to the workstation chassis as the tow bar.

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-11

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-11

A material handling system comprising a mobile workstation and a self-propelled tug, whereby said mobile workstation is provided with a tow bar and said self-propelled tug has a body mounted on three wheels and a tow bar hitch adapted to couple with said tow bar.

2. claim: 12

A material handling system comprising a mobile workstation having a roller conveyor and a self-propelled tug, whereby said mobile workstation is provided with a roller power transmission engageable with a complementary drive coupling provided on said tug.

3. claim: 13

A material handling system comprising a self-propelled tug and a mobile workstation having a roller conveyor supported on an alternative workstation chassis.

4. claim: 14

A materials handling system comprising a truck dock comprising a chassis supporting an elevator.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B65G69/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B65G B23Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| A | US 5 718 325 A (BARNETT JIMMY ET AL) 17 February 1998 (1998-02-17) column 4, lines 36-51; column 4, line 64 - column 5, line 8; column 6, line 58 -column 7, line 4; figures 1,8; claims ----- | 1-11 |
| A | EP 0 849 193 A (SITMA SPA) 24 June 1998 (1998-06-24) column 2, lines 40-44; column 3, lines 1-27; column 4, lines 16-20; figures 1,4 ----- | 1-11 |
| A | US 4 312 619 A (WINKLER EDWIN ET AL) 26 January 1982 (1982-01-26) the whole document ----- | 1-11 |
| A | US 2003/111322 A1 (LUEVANO RUBEN) 19 June 2003 (2003-06-19) the whole document ----- | 1-11 |



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"Z" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 December 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

31.03.2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.O. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Clivio, E

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/004068

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|-------------------------------------------|----|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| US 5718325 | A | 17-02-1998 | US 5325953 A JP 9100011 A | 05-07-1994 15-04-1997 |
| EP 0849193 | A | 24-06-1998 | IT M1962669 A1 EP 0849193 A1 | 19-06-1998 24-06-1998 |
| US 4312619 | A | 26-01-1982 | AU 540362 B2 AU 6027780 A BE 884344 A1 CA 1144896 A1 FR 2461645 A1 GB 2053157 A ,B IT 1193951 B JP 56022000 A | 15-11-1984 22-01-1981 17-11-1980 19-04-1983 06-02-1981 04-02-1981 31-08-1988 28-02-1981 |
| US 2003111322 | A1 | 19-06-2003 | US 2003000803 A1 | 02-01-2003 |